

May 1, 1964

Mr. George Dessart
Director, Department of Mote-Casting
WCAU-TV
City and Monument Avenues
Philadelphia 31, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Dessart:

This answer to your invitation of April 28 is motivated by the most ancient injunction about mote-casting, first from our own eyes.

Before getting into specifics, I'd like to tell you a bit about my background and experience so you can better evaluate the opinions I'm offering. My first writing was for the old Philadelphia Ledger Syndicate. Remember it? I did by-line features for it when I was a teen-ager. Until World War II, I wrote for newspapers and magazines, with some investigating and editing for the U.S. Senate. Part of my war service was with O.S.S. - intelligence and political analysis.

The Annenbergs used to publish a picture magazine. I did a series of rather sensational political and economic exposes of such things as Nazi penetration of U.S. industry for them. These wound up in the Congressional Record and elicited praise from the White House, a number of Cabinet officers, Senators and Congressmen. Less than three months before Pearl Harbor this series included an analysis and prediction of not only the attack on Pearl Harbor, but every other major Japanese step, with only a single error.

This is not horn-tooting. I am trying to encourage you to have confidence in the nonconformist analysis I am about to give you.

All of my family still lives in the Philadelphia-Wilmington area and I visit them from time to time, so I'd welcome an opportunity to discuss the enclosed and other ideas with you, which I would combine with a family visit.

The enclosed rough draft on the Supersonic Transport and the Sonic Boom is rough, hasty and was intended chiefly to get on paper what I wanted to say, reflecting my own strong beliefs, and to show my agent the kind of research that would be behind anything I did. It is five months old, hence to a degree dated. It has been cleared for accuracy on an informal basis by the Air Force. Developments since the drafting are all predicted or indicated in the text. Most of them have been suppressed. In revising this, among the things I'd do is change the lead and include new information. The lead would tell the story of a single

sonic boom that virtually demolished a new commercial air terminal in Canada, doing \$500,000.00 damage to that single building alone in a split second!

I do hope that the length of this is no burden to you, and that you will go through it. I have enough additional material, most of it official, to constitute a more thorough-going attack on the FAA and its administrator. An official Presidential study, of which I have a copy, although cloaked in polite language, is a rare denunciation of a ranking government official, the FAA Administrator.

My animus comes from the fact that our promising farm was ruined by military aviation, the coup de grace having been administered by sonic booms. This, and the kind of life and living it enforced upon us, accounts for the haste of my writing, which has had to be squeezed in between pressing unpleasant duties which make concentration and continuity difficult.

Also enclosed is a lead and summary, "The Untold Story of the Cuban Missile Crisis," which I believe suggests the only reasonable explanation of what really happened and why.

The lead and summary entitled "Chronology of a Diplomatic Disaster" were prepared when the incident was hot, and since then I have gotten more information, including lengthier quotes from the radio intercepts. I now know that this fishing was even cleared in advance through diplomatic channels!

I have begun similar analyses on Viet-Nam and Southeast Asia and on what is really bugging DeGaulle. I haven't gone far enough with them to type them, but I have most of the materials and can, if you are interested, show you what I do have.

As you can imagine from my recent farming, I have an interest in animals and have begun two books about them, both on geese. We are well known for what we have done with geese and the uses we have put them to, including making them a successful part of our country's foreign policy. We now have three families of wild geese so tame some of them eat from my mouth without biting me! The first of this year's young is due to hatch within a week, and based on previous performance, they'll be bringing the goslings to me within four days of hatching, demanding I feed them while they teach the young ones how to eat. Does this suggest anything you can use? It suggests to me some beautiful TV commercials, for bread or other cereal products, but I don't have the right connections.

Getting back to the political and diplomatic analysis, whether it is in fact an economically hazardous thing to do depends on how you do it. Senator Fulbright and a number of others, only a few of whom have dared be vocal, have indicated the belief public interest demands the myths be swept aside. Or, as you put it, the notes be cast out.

If you are interested, I can come up any time except right around the eighth and fourteenth. There are a number of other stories I'd like to tell you about.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg